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INSIDE: THUNDERBOLTS ESCAPE?; INTERVIEW WITH HOT NEW A.D.A. KIRSTEN McDUFFIE! IS SHE SEEING ANYONE?; BRUISED EGOS IN THE SUPER VILLAIN COMMUNITY.

HIGH WIRE ACT!

DAREDEVIL SEEMS TO ALMOST BE HAVING FUN THESE DAYS. (PICTURED HERE FIGHTING THE CIRCUS OF CRIME).

PHOTO BY KEVIN QUESADA

BLIND JUSTICE

MATT MURDOCK AND FOGGY NELSON, OF THE LAW FIRM NELSON & MURODCK, HAVE GONE FROM TRYING CASES TO TEACHING PEOPLE HOW TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES IN COURT. THEIR MOST RECENT CLIENT, AUSTIN CAO, A BLIND LINGUISTICS GENIUS, WAS RECENTLY FIRED WITHOUT CAUSE FROM MIDAS INVESTMENTS. COULD HE HAVE HEARD SOMETHING HE SHOULDN'T? IF SO, HE BETTER HOPE THE RUMORS ABOUT MR. MURDOCK ARE TRUE, AND THE BLIND LAWYER REALLY IS DAREDEVIL!

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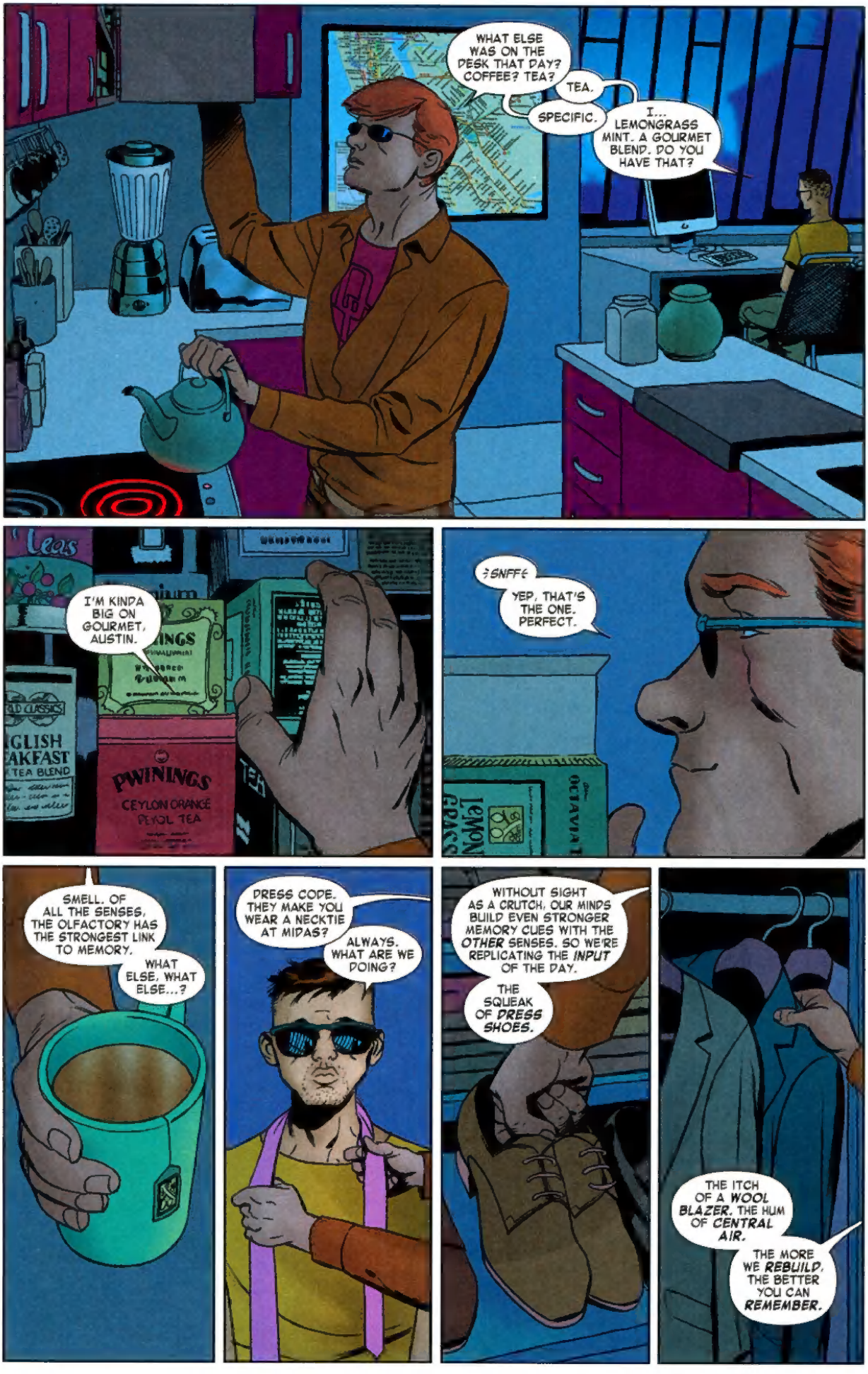
NOW.
When I first started as a crimefighter, I was nearly as deaf as I was blind.
DON'T FORGET MILK
CALL OR FOLD, HARRY
HONEY, NOT NOW
WERE YOU MAD WHEN BERNIE WILLIAMS DID IT?
AHORITA TE LO TRAIGO
THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, HAWKEYE.
GOOD LORD, LEMON, THAT'S YOUR WORST QUADRANT.
Hearing everything is the same as hearing nothing.
IT'S ONLINE SOMEWHERE
TWO TABLESPOONS OF BUTTER
SO I SAYS TO MABEL, I SAYS
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING
BAN GIUP TOI DUOC KHONG?
CALL NOW AND WE'LL DOUBLE YOUR ORDER
Over time, as a matter of survival, I trained myself to single out certain key sounds. For instance--
rmmmmm
drip drip
koff
CH-CHING
KA-KLAK
--what may or may not be the bolt-action of an assault rifle being cocked.
Also, certain words and phrases.
"Help."
"Gimme the money."
And--this one's very important--
ON MY MAR
--"On my mark."

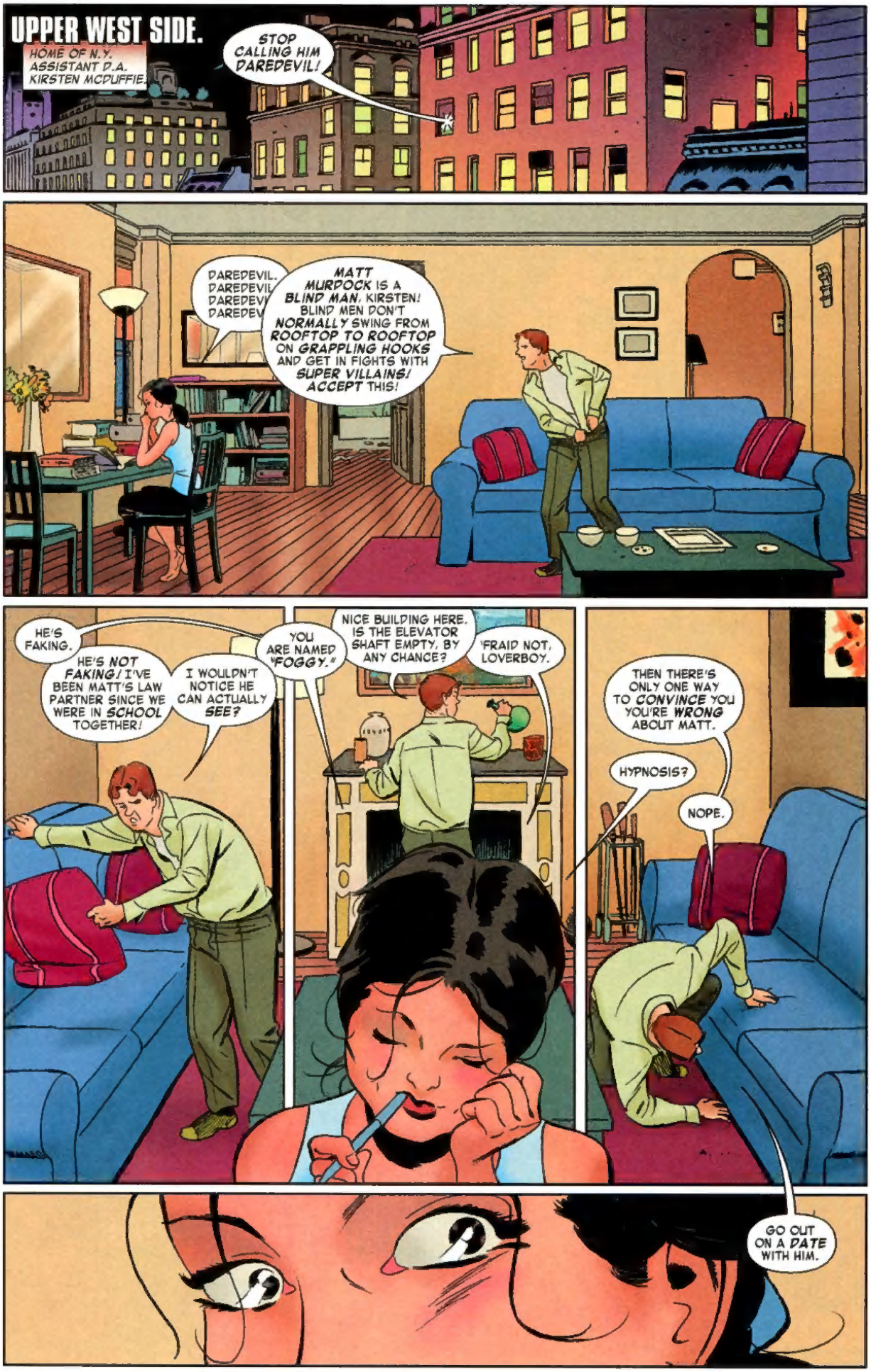
AAAAAAH!
BUDDABUDDABUDDAB

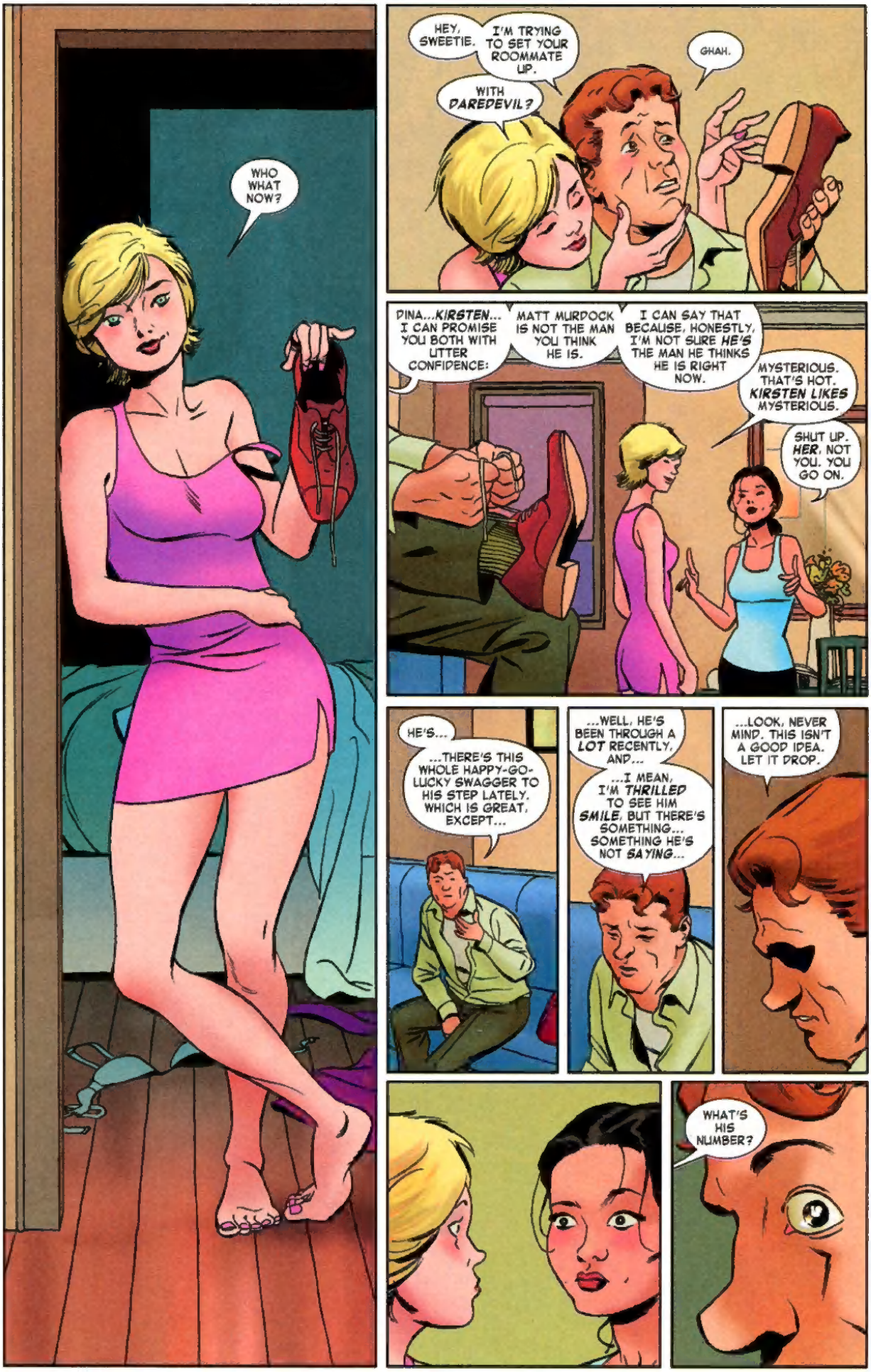
Poor kid's heart is racing like a greyhound's.
THIS WAY.
MATT? WHAT IS THIS? WHAT--
SHHH. GO, GO, GO.
Too far on foot, subway stations play hob with my radar sense...taxi's our least-worst option, even though it makes us a standing target.
I hate this. I can pick out a sniper at 100 yards but I can't tell which cabs are free or in service.

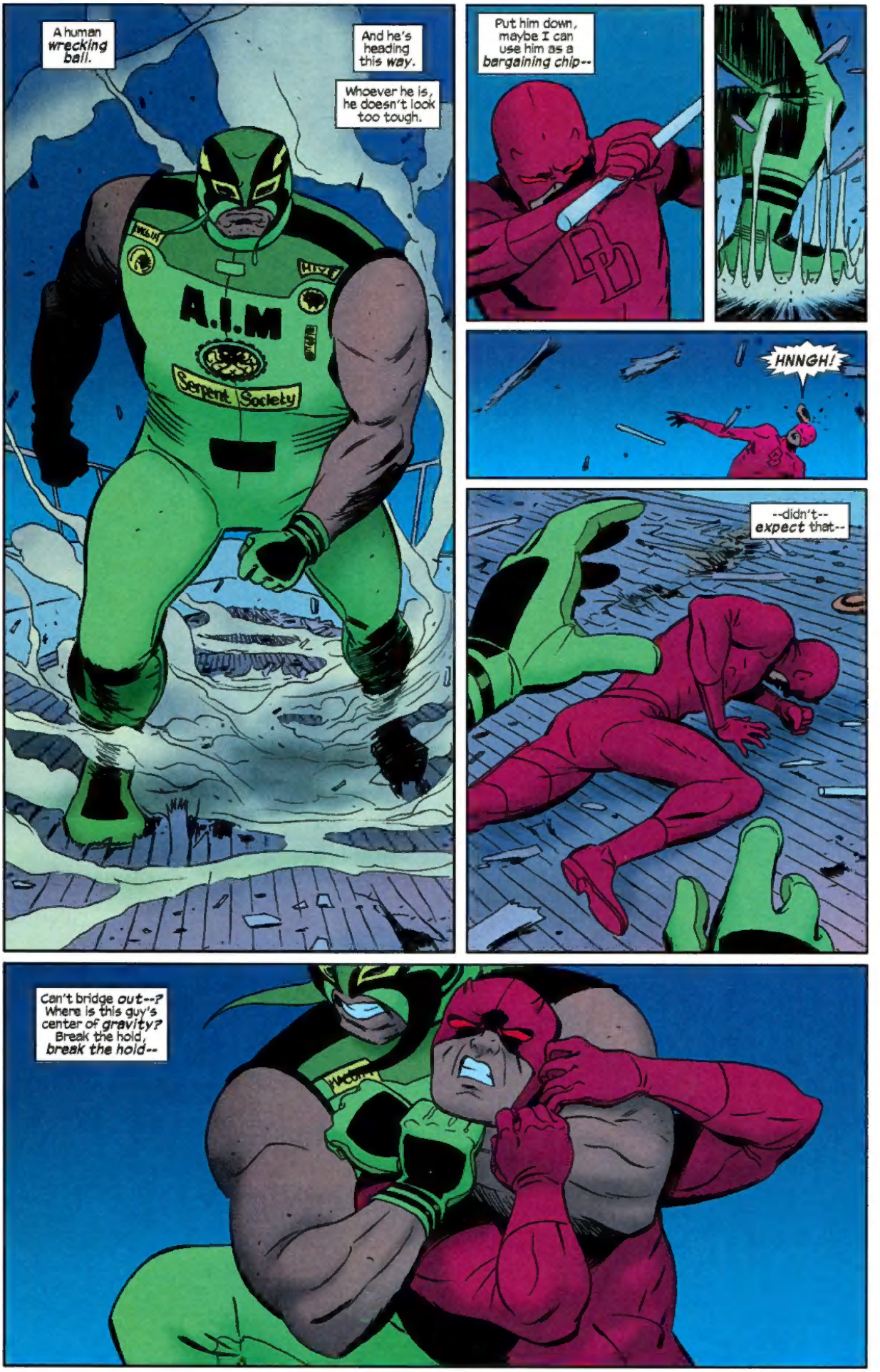
SIR? TARGETS ESCAPED.
DO YOU HAVE FALLBACK ORDERS?
NOT FOR YOU.
TKK
I DON'T COPY. CAN YOU REPEAT THAT?
SIR, ARE YOU THERE?
SIR?
BLAM
WHO ELSE DO WE HAVE UNDER CONTRACT?
I KNOW JUST THE MAN.

HERE'S MY THEORY. PLEASE NOTE THAT I HAVE AMENDED IT IN VIEW OF THE BLATANT ATTEMPT ON YOUR LIFE.
YOU DID OVERHEAR SOMETHING AT THE OFFICE YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO'VE.
WHY YOU WERE IMMEDIATELY FIRED RATHER THAN IMMEDIATELY RIDDLED WITH BULLETS IS STILL A MYSTERY--
--BUT YOU CONTACTING ME IS MOST LIKELY WHAT TRIGGERED THE HIT SQUAD OPTION.
THIS SHOULD HELP YOU RELAX. THINK BACK, AUSTIN. WHAT DID THE LATVERIANS SAY?
I--I DON'T REMEMBER--!
Chet BAKER
OKAY. WE'RE GONNA TRY SOMETHING. PRETEND THIS IS YOUR OFFICE DESK. MOVE THE CHAIR TO WHEREVER YOU HAD IT.
COMPUTER WAS WHERE?
ON--ON MY LEFT--
PHONE?
ALWAYS ON THE RIGHT.
UNNECESSARY DESK LAMP, RIGHT EDGE.
WASTE-BASKET, LOWER RIGHT


WHAT ELSE WAS ON THE DESK THAT DAY? COFFEE? TEA?
TEA.
SPECIFIC.
I... LEMONGRASS MINT. A GOURMET BLEND. DO YOU HAVE THAT?
I'M KINDA BIG ON GOURMET, AUSTIN.
PWININGS
CEYLON ORANGE PEKOL TEA
SNIFF
YEP, THAT'S THE ONE. PERFECT.
SMELL. OF ALL THE SENSES, THE OLFACTORY HAS THE STRONGEST LINK TO MEMORY.
WHAT ELSE, WHAT ELSE...?
DRESS CODE. THEY MAKE YOU WEAR A NECKTIE AT MIDAS?
ALWAYS. WHAT ARE WE DOING?
WITHOUT SIGHT AS A CRUTCH, OUR MINDS BUILD EVEN STRONGER MEMORY CUES WITH THE OTHER SENSES. SO WE'RE REPLICATING THE INPUT OF THE DAY.
THE SQUEAK OF DRESS SHOES.
THE ITCH OF A WOOL BLAZER. THE HUM OF CENTRAL AIR.
THE MORE WE REBUILD, THE BETTER YOU CAN REMEMBER.


UPPER WEST SIDE.
HOME OF N.Y. ASSISTANT D.A. KIRSTEN MCDUFFIE.
STOP CALLING HIM DAREDEVIL!
DAREDEVIL. DAREDEVIL. DAREDEVV DAREDEV
MATT MURDOCK IS A BLIND MAN, KIRSTEN! BLIND MEN DON'T NORMALLY SWING FROM ROOFTOP TO ROOFTOP ON GRAPPLING HOOKS AND GET IN FIGHTS WITH SUPER VILLAINS! ACCEPT THIS!
HE'S FAKING.
HE'S NOT FAKING! I'VE BEEN MATT'S LAW PARTNER SINCE WE WERE IN SCHOOL TOGETHER!
I WOULDN'T NOTICE HE CAN ACTUALLY SEE?
YOU ARE NAMED "FOGGY."
NICE BUILDING HERE. IS THE ELEVATOR SHAFT EMPTY, BY ANY CHANCE?
'FRAID NOT, LOVERBOY.
THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO CONVINCE YOU YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT MATT.
HYPNOSIS?
NOPE.
GO OUT ON A DATE WITH HIM.


WHO WHAT NOW?
HEY, SWEETIE.
I'M TRYING TO SET YOUR ROOMMATE UP.
WITH DAREDEVIL?
GHAH.
DINA...KIRSTEN... I CAN PROMISE YOU BOTH WITH UTTER CONFIDENCE:
MATT MURDOCK IS NOT THE MAN YOU THINK HE IS.
I CAN SAY THAT BECAUSE, HONESTLY, I'M NOT SURE HE'S THE MAN HE THINKS HE IS RIGHT NOW.
MYSTERIOUS. THAT'S HOT. KIRSTEN LIKES MYSTERIOUS.
SHUT UP. HER, NOT YOU. YOU GO ON.
HE'S...
...THERE'S THIS WHOLE HAPPY-GO-LUCKY SWAGGER TO HIS STEP LATELY. WHICH IS GREAT, EXCEPT...
...WELL, HE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT RECENTLY, AND...
...I MEAN, I'M THRILLED TO SEE HIM SMILE, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING... SOMETHING HE'S NOT SAYING...
...LOOK, NEVER MIND. THIS ISN'T A GOOD IDEA. LET IT DROP.
WHAT'S HIS NUMBER?


A human wrecking ball.
And he's heading this way.
Whoever he is, he doesn't look too tough.
A.I.M
Serpent Society
Put him down, maybe I can use him as a bargaining chip--
HNNGH!
--didn't-- expect that--
Can't bridge out--? Where is this guy's center of gravity? Break the hold, break the hold--

LETTERS WITHOUT FEAR

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Welcome back, HornDogs (hmm... maybe not the best nickname for DD fans. I'll keep working on it.)

Before we get to your mail, I want to say a simple "thanks" to all of you.

Because of your support and word of mouth, we've managed to sell out of each of our first four issues and have gone back to press on each issue. This is amazing news at any time, but particularly meaningful in such a tough economy and with competition for your entertainment dollar so fierce and persistent.

To keep up our end of the bargain, we're not going to take the pedal off the metal at all as we head to 2012 and some big plans for DD (including visits from Spidey and the Punisher, an official Marvel brand POINT ONE issue, and a new love in the life of Matt Murdock).

So if you have another comic reading friend (or a lawyer...or a boxer...or even a blind pal you can read to)...go get `em hooked on Daredevil!

Go, HornDogs, Go!!!

(Hmmm...thought I'd give it another shot. Still doesn't work.)

Okay, let's get to you!

Dear DAREDEVIL team,

These first two issues reminded me why I started reading DD in the beginning. That swashbuckling feel is back again and I love that we are getting a constant description of how Matt perceives the world around him. Most excellent!

Small touches of him taking off his glove to "read" signs were great to see and Matt seemed more happy and relaxed.

It's been a long time since I enjoyed reading DD as much as I did these two issues. I'm looking forward to see what you have planned for Matt. If this is the direction you are heading in, I'll be rushing to the comic store every month, excited for a change, to get my DD fix.

Morné Schaap
South Africa

Dear LWOF,

I'm a very recent comic reader and had been curious about Daredevil for a while. I just hadn't picked up the book yet because, well, I felt lost in the continuity.

And then I stumbled on DAREDEVIL #1! It was perfect!

As a new reader, I got whatever I needed to know explained to me, and it still felt like I was reading about a hero who's been out there for a long time. It was really great that the book hits the ground running and the moment you start getting familiar with it you're already rooting for Matt and wondering what comes next!

Congratulations, it's a very fine work you're doing here.

Also, those little round Daredevil heads at the letter page are just about the cutest thing ever!

Luciana DiGiovanni
São Paulo, Brazil

Thank you, Luciana, and welcome to the rewarding world of comic reading. I know it can be hard for a new reader to make their way through the many hundreds of new comics available every month, so let me offer some advice to you:

You're going to want to look for that red rectangle on the cover that says MARVEL; it's synonymous with "quality"!

Preferably (and if you know what's good for you), you'll stick with books like DAREDEVIL, PUNISHER, MOON KNIGHT, SPIDER-MAN, VENOM and GHOST RIDER.

You can try other comics if you absolutely have to, but I've heard that most other comic books have a heavy anti-Brazil bias. It's not always obvious, but it's there if you know where to find it (...especially in that new X-Men series! Go try it out and see if it's as obvious to you as it is to me!)

Oh, and you can thank Bullpen genius Manny Mederos for the great Daredevil heads like these:

Dear Letters Without Fear,

I am both a fan and a retailer and though normally I don't write into too many letter columns (actually not many to write in to, but I digress...) however, I wanted to make my and my customers voices heard. This new direction, look, team and style are all absolutely spot on PERFECT!!

I have never seen sales like this on Daredevil, ever... even during the years of the biggest events, happenings and writers in the character's existence. I even have hardened long time lovers of flying rat crusaders saying they enjoy this book as much or more. How big are its sales now? Double that of Avengers... but why, how could this be?

I think the biggest problem – in comics today – is a continued interconnected, never ending, crossover. One ends, the next begins, and no characters are developed in the process. Daredevil has never been that way. Sure occasionally he would assist in an Inferno or an Act of Vengeance, but he has his continuity, his little corner of New York and thank you very much.

This is where the new Daredevil book works so well. Back to basics, both character and comic.

Yes, all old continuity still exists (in months to come more will be seeing why this is the overarching strength of Marvel as a whole), but this is also a fresh start. Nothing has been rebooted, but the character it is so... fresh.

Fresh is how I would describe the art and writing too. Now, Mark Waid may not be a spring chicken when it comes to this comic book writing thing **(Ha! He's going to kill me for leaving that line in!-SW)**, but his crisp bare bones – do I dare say simple – approach is what is so needed in more books (but please keep him here on DD) and Marcos Martin and Paolo Rivera are both detailed, without feeling the need to fill every bloody space inside every bloody panel. Ahhhh, (big breath) Fresh!!

Thank you...as a fan AND a retailer.

Matt Johnson
Cup o' Kryptonite
Des Moines, Iowa

Thanks to you, Matt. I know being a comic book retailer can be the most rewarding and the most frustratingly difficult of jobs (particularly these last few months), so thanks for all your work getting the word out. As a longtime DD fan myself, I definitely think you'll like what's coming up.

And no matter how you feel about the book, one thing I know we can all agree on is that Waid is "simple". I couldn't agree more.

Dear Marvel,

When I read the first issue of this comic, I came out of it with a smile that hurt my face. The art is really great and reminiscent of a more classic style that makes me nostalgic. It's cheerful and fun, almost teasingly so, perfect company to the new direction Daredevil's moving in after years of grim stories.

I fell in love with Matt Murdock after an extensive reading of those special collected editions the size of encyclopedias, and even before that, when I watched the movie (that was a looooong time ago). When I was still in grade school, I could be found walking around with my eyes closed to enhance my hearing. Darn it all if I didn't follow the book religiously after that.

Speaking of religious, I haven't seen much of Matt's Catholic side as of late. Did I miss something, or are we going to see some of that in the future? It gave me something else to relate to, and I appreciated that a lot more than I thought I would.

I am way excited for the next few issues to find out who the mystery woman is.

Motzie Dapul
The Philippines

Motzie, you were probably reading the Marvel Omnibus of the Frank Miller run or the Brian Bendis/Alex Maleev run of Daredevil. Two of the best investments of your time and money you can find. Both are just incredible.

Matt's religious background is still a part of the book. As a former altar boy, it was always one of the character's traits that I found more appealing.

Thanks also to letter writers: Jeremy Beebe, Francesco Vanagolli, Carlisle Manning, Jason Shrum, Reid Kerr, John Lacorazza (we'll suggest reprinting "Fall From Grace" to the collections department. Good idea.), Yelnick McWawa, Adam Cohen (who flat out HATES the book and wants to know "Where the editor is".), Adam McGovern (who flat out LOVES it and calls Waid "one of the most open-eyed writers in comics"), Johnny Freiberg, Randall Wright, Mark Davis, Matt Davis and Mike Pellegrino.

We'll see you all again in one month as the conclusion of our three-parter finds Matt becoming the single most important man in the Marvel Universe.

I can't wait until you read this.

Viva Templar!
Simperin' Steve
9/29/11

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